

Agency Overview

DEQ is a state department created by the *Idaho Environmental Protection and Health Act* (Idaho Code Title 39, Chapter 1) to ensure clean air, water, and land in the state and protect Idaho citizens from the adverse health impacts of pollution.

As a regulatory agency, DEQ enforces various state environmental regulations and administers a number of federal environmental protection laws including the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. DEQ manages a broad range of activities including:

- assessment of environmental problems;
- oversight of facilities that generate air, water, and hazardous waste pollution;
- monitoring of air and water quality;
- cleanup of contaminated sites; and
- education, outreach, and technical assistance to businesses, local government agencies, and interested citizens.

The agency is committed to working in partnership with local communities, businesses, and citizens to identify and implement cost-effective environmental solutions.

Within the department are seven divisions responsible for developing, administering, and enforcing environmental policies and for providing technical and administrative support. Division staff are housed in the department's state office. The seven divisions are: Air Quality, Water Quality, Waste Management and Remediation, Planning and Special Projects, Technical Services, Administrative Services, and INL Oversight and Radiation Control.

On-the-ground implementation of environmental programs is conducted by the six regional offices located in Boise, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Falls, Lewiston, Pocatello and Twin Falls. Four satellite offices are located in Cascade, Grangeville, Kellogg and Soda Springs. DEQ staff in regional and satellite offices are the service providers of the agency. Each region's staff consists of specialists in air quality, water quality, and waste management and remediation issues. They are knowledgeable about environmental issues in their particular regions and work directly with citizens, businesses, and industries to implement the state's environmental policies and programs.

DEQ carries out its responsibilities as authorized by various legislative mandates, many of which empower the state to implement and enforce federally mandated environmental programs.

The Board of Environmental Quality is a rulemaking and advisory body created by the *Environmental Protection and Health Act*, Idaho Code Title 39, Chapter 1. The Board may adopt, amend or repeal the rules, codes, and standards of DEQ that are necessary and feasible to carry out its purposes and provisions of the *Environmental Protection and Health Act* and to enforce the laws of the state. DEQ, with assistance from the attorney general's office, is responsible for drafting rules for consideration by the Board. Board determinations may be petitioned for judicial review.

Core Functions/Idaho Code

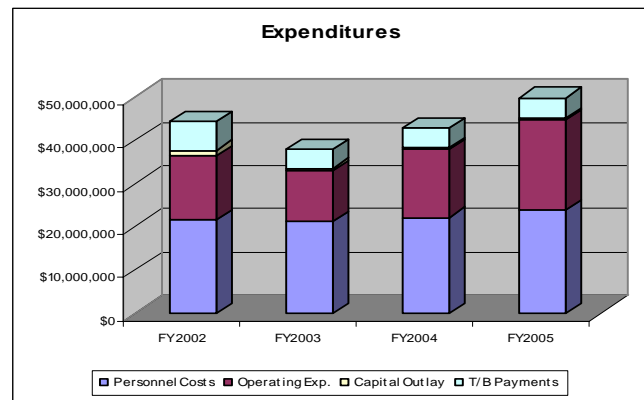
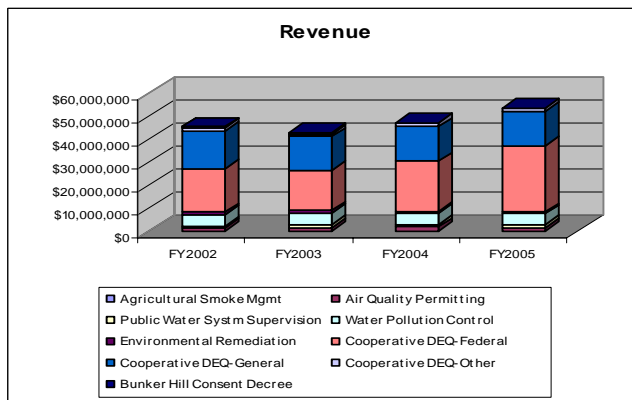
- **Air Quality:** DEQ assures compliance with federal and state health-based air quality standards by monitoring air quality and collecting data; developing and issuing permits; and coordinating air quality improvement efforts among communities, citizen groups, businesses, industries, other state agencies, tribes, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). *Idaho Code* Title 39, Chapters 1; Clean Air Act.
- **Water Quality:** DEQ assures that the state's surface, ground, and drinking water resources meet state water quality standards by setting water quality standards and providing Clean Water Act Section 401 certification; monitoring, assessing, and reporting on surface water quality; developing and implementing water quality improvement plans known as Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs); protecting the quality of public drinking water and ground water resources; providing guidance for managing storm water; establishing standards for on-site wastewater systems (septic systems); issuing wastewater-land

application permits; and providing grants and loans. *Idaho Code* Title 39, Chapters 1, 36, 64, 66, 76; Title 37, Chapter 21; Clean Water Act.

- **Waste Management and Remediation:** DEQ ensure that wastes generated in or entering Idaho are managed and disposed in a manner protective of human health and the environment and responds to releases of hazardous substances to surface waters, ground water, or soils. *Idaho Code* Title 39, Chapters 1, 44, 58, 65, 71, 74, 81; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act CERCLA).
- **INL Oversight and Radiation Control:** DEQ oversees activities at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory and maintains an independent environmental surveillance program designed to verify and supplement INL monitoring programs. DEQ develops a "big picture" view of how the site affects Idaho's environment and inhabitants. DEQ also works with other state agencies, and assists local governments statewide in their planning and response to emergencies involving radiological materials. DEQ also addresses issues of interest to the public and provides information when and where needed. *Idaho Code* Title 67, Chapter 8.

Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Agricultural Smoke Mgmt	\$7,300	\$5,500	\$0	\$0
Air Quality Permitting	\$1,104,900	\$1,518,800	\$1,649,800	\$1,361,500
Public Water System Supervision				
Supervision	\$1,085,400	\$1,386,500	\$1,308,900	\$1,326,600
Water Pollution Control	\$5,027,000	\$4,868,600	\$4,826,300	\$4,823,400
Environmental Remediation	\$954,800	\$1,087,500	\$684,200	\$707,300
Cooperative DEQ-Federal	\$18,848,400	\$17,503,100	\$21,888,500	\$28,724,700
Cooperative DEQ-General	\$16,479,100	\$14,769,900	\$15,146,000	\$15,234,100
Cooperative DEQ-Other	\$1,638,600	\$1,196,200	\$1,526,200	\$1,255,500
Bunker Hill Consent Decree	\$168,700	\$666,400	\$262,600	\$65,700
Total	\$45,314,300	\$43,002,500	\$47,292,500	\$53,498,800
Expenditure	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Personnel Costs	\$21,660,300	\$21,148,700	\$22,141,900	\$23,950,300
Operating Expenditures	\$14,803,300	\$11,793,200	\$15,621,100	\$20,626,200
Capital Outlay	\$1,233,800	\$553,700	\$412,400	\$413,600
Trustee/Benefit Payments	\$6,537,000	\$4,349,800	\$4,536,900	\$4,744,700
Total	\$44,234,400	\$37,845,400	\$42,712,300	\$49,734,800



Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Air Quality Permits to Construct Issued	81	49	52	61
Air Quality Tier I (Title V) Permits Issued	6	48	12	10
Air Quality Tier 2 Permits Issued	16	38	23	14
Air Inspections and Evaluations Conducted	155	141	180	121
Wastewater Grant \$ Awarded	521,133	215,405	163,610	117,000
Drinking Water Grant \$ Awarded	498,001	70,025	178,981	206,000
Completed TMDLs Approved by EPA	10	9	14	7
401/404 Water Quality Certifications Issued	1017	881	885	695
Wastewater Land Application Permits Issued	24	34	28	22
Wastewater Plan and Specification Reviews	960	1059	2070	2201
Drinking Water Plan and Specification Reviews	1252	1324	1743	1959
Drinking Water Sanitary Surveys	451	432	459	454
Remediation Projects Closed	170	140	134	137
Underground Storage Tank Compliance	203	273	282	269
Assistance Visits				
Hazardous Waste Inspections (Regulatory and Compliance Assistance)	218	239	229	245
Phosphate Mine Sites Undergoing Investigation/Cleanup Activities	6	8	10	10
DOE/INL Operations Monitored	16	39	36	43
Snake River Plain Environmental Samples Analyzed (for DOE/INL activities)	5,073	3,073	2,731	2,609
DOE Impacted Counties Receiving Radiological Emergency Preparedness Assistance	15	15	15	15
Public Outreach – Reports, Newsletters, Presentations on DOE/INL Activities	45	41	45	37

Performance Highlights**Clean Air Zone Idaho**

DEQ successfully promoted the *Clean Air Zone Idaho* anti-idling campaign. The program is aimed at reducing children's exposure to school bus diesel exhaust by discouraging idling of buses and other vehicles and encouraging use of alternative fuels in school buses. Schools throughout the State are participating in the program, reducing children's exposure to exhaust fumes when arriving and leaving school. In FY 2005 this voluntary program expanded to include 130 schools in Idaho managing 556 buses, with over 51,000 students now attending Clean Air Zone Idaho Schools.

E85 pump

DEQ partnered with a wide variety of public and private entities including the Governor's Office, the City of Boise, Ethanol Producers, Stinker Stations, and the Farm Bureau to establish an E85 (85% Ethanol) fuel pump in Boise that is available to the public.

Air Monitoring

DEQ has entered into several cooperative agreements in northern Idaho to enhance the air quality monitoring network through Public/Private Partnerships. DEQ has teamed with the Kootenai Tribe, Cd'A Tribe and Reilly Creek Lumber to expand monitoring efforts to the mutual benefit of the state, the tribes and the company, by sharing costs and the obtained data. We have been able to do this with no increase in general fund appropriations.

Eastern Idaho Regional Wastewater Authority

DEQ worked with counties, cities and other regional groups by providing technical assistance, coordination and funding guidance for a regionalized wastewater facility in Eastern Idaho. The facility is a proposed system of transmission lines and a modern wastewater treatment plant intended to serve the rapidly growing population base of Southeast Idaho residing in the southern half of Bonneville county and the northern portions of Bingham County. The project will benefit Southeast Idaho by protecting groundwater in the Upper Snake River Plain Aquifer, reducing pollutants entering the Snake River, and providing infrastructure to support economic stimulus.

Bonnors Ferry Drinking Water

A severe forest fire devastated the Myrtle Creek watershed which is the primary surface water supply for the City of Bonners Ferry. This required the City of Bonners Ferry to revert to their secondary source, the Kootenai River, until the safety of their primary source could be assured. With the cooperation of local government and the United States Forest Service, DEQ obtained funding and installed a continuous monitoring station for turbidity on Myrtle Creek. This station serves as an "early warning" system, which alerts the city to "turbidity spikes" in the watershed, allowing them time to convert to their backup source thereby ensuring a safe, continuous and reliable supply of drinking water for their customers.

Billingsley Creek Stabilization

DEQ worked with the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Idaho Power, and a private landowner in a project to create wetlands and restore functionality to a section of Billingsley Creek, near Hagerman. This project resulted in the reduction of sediment and nutrients to the creek and the Snake River.

Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements

DEQ's Drinking Water Planning Grant Program provides assistance to eligible public drinking water systems for facility planning projects designed to ensure safe and adequate supplies of drinking water. In FY2005 DEQ awarded \$206,000 in drinking water planning grants.

DEQ's Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund provides below-market-rate interest loans to help repair or build new drinking water facilities. The cumulative total of drinking water loans awarded by DEQ through FY2005 is \$49,085,109

DEQ's Wastewater Planning Grant Program provides financial assistance to eligible entities in planning to upgrade public wastewater facilities. In FY2005 \$117, 000 in wastewater planning grants were awarded.

The Water Pollution Control State Revolving Loan Fund provides below-market-rate interest loans to help build new or repair existing wastewater treatment facilities. The cumulative total of wastewater loans awarded by DEQ is \$227,583,150.

Wastewater and Drinking Water Plan and Specification Reviews

Substantial growth throughout the state has led to a sharp increase in plan and specification reviews submitted to DEQ for both wastewater and drinking water systems. In the last 4 years DEQ has seen a 129% increase in the number of submitted wastewater plan and specification reviews, and a 56% increase in submitted drinking water plan and specification reviews.

DEQ Sponsored Targeted Brownfield Assessments

DEQ's Brownfield Assessment Program funds and conducts environmental assessments of Brownfield sites when a lack of environmental information has complicated site redevelopment or reuse.

American Linen Building

DEQ conducted an assessment near downtown Boise in order to provide information about the property's ground water quality. As a result of this assessment, building and other properties along Grove Street in downtown Boise were purchased and branded the "Linen District." Using the American Linen building as the flagship building for the district, multiple tenants are moving into this mixed use area of downtown, much of which was previously vacant and/or blighted.

McCall Parks and Recreation, Proposed Riverfront Park

DEQ conducted an investigation to assess soil and groundwater quality at this former landfill site between the Payette River and McCall airport. The investigation concluded that no cleanup was required and the site was cleared for redevelopment into a 40 acre municipal park.

Meridian Creamery

The City of Meridian requested that DEQ complete an assessment started by EPA at the blighted and underutilized Meridian Creamery. Results of the investigation revealed surprisingly little contamination. As a result of reading the assessment there is now a purchase option on the property. The proposed redevelopment will include office, retail, and restaurant space in the heart of downtown Meridian.

Technical Assistance: Brownfields

DEQ continues to provide technical assistance to entities as they apply for EPA grants to conduct site assessments. Assessments determine the nature and extent of the contamination, identify potential cleanup options, and estimate cleanup costs (if any). Last year, DEQ assisted the City of Caldwell, Washington County, the Capital City Development Corporation and the Reuse Idaho Brownfields Coalition as they applied and received grants from EPA to determine the readiness of these properties for future sale or use.

Blackbird Mine Remediation

DEQ is actively involved in the remediation of the Blackbird site, along with EPA, the U.S. Forest Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the mining companies. The remediation project consists of removing metals-contaminated rock tailings, removing contaminated soils from flood plains, capturing and treating contaminated ground and surface waters, and intensive monitoring. DEQ is leading an investigation to quantify metals load reductions in streams and an investigation into "passive" treatment technologies that save money and infrastructure costs for the responsible parties.

Monitoring has shown significant improvement in water quality in the streams impacted by the mine. Copper concentrations have been dramatically reduced due to the installation of the selected remedies around the site. For example, in Panther Creek, below significant mine workings, copper concentrations have declined from 218 micro grams per liter in 1995 to levels near 5.2 micro grams per liter in 2004. Water quality standards are still exceeded at times of the year and the agencies and companies involved continue to implement innovative solutions to achieve year round standards compliance.

DEQ/Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Agreement to Protect Ground Water Quality

In September 2004, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) opened a mainline train fueling facility over the aquifer, near Hauser, Idaho. In December 2004, it was discovered that an industrial wastewater drain pipe had been damaged during construction and was leaking contaminated wastewater. DEQ required BNSF to complete a comprehensive investigation of the release, followed by a corrective action plan for cleanup. Different problems with water and petroleum accumulation in leak detection sumps in other parts of the facility were then discovered.

DEQ had concerns about the integrity of the constructed protective layers at the facility and sought an emergency motion for a temporary restraining order with the First Judicial Court in Kootenai County requiring BNSF to stop refueling operations at its Hauser facility. The order was granted and the facility was shut down, until BNSF could show measures to prevent contamination of the aquifer were restored and functioning properly. On May 9, 2005, the temporary restraining order was lifted, as DEQ and BNSF reached agreement on an enhanced groundwater protection and monitoring program, allowing BSNF to resume operations.

Compliance Assistance Visits

One of many ways that DEQ assists businesses to comply with environmental regulations is through conducting compliance assistance inspections. The last 4 years, DEQ has conducted 314 hazardous waste compliance assistance inspections, and 1027 compliance assistance visits to owners/operators of underground storage tanks. These visits are aimed at educating operators to ensure they understand the applicable regulations, and know what they need to do to ensure they are in compliance.

DOE/INL Environmental Impacts

DEQ maintains an independent INL environmental monitoring and verification program. This program is designed to provide the people of Idaho with independently evaluated information about the trends and impacts of the Department of Energy's (DOE) activities on public health and the environment. The conclusion for 2005 is that results for all media were consistent with historical trends and show no significant impacts to human health and the environment.

For More Information Contact

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